

Simulation of Quantum Algorithms for Solving Machine Learning and Chemistry Problems

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Summary

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1 Introduction

Quantum computing is one of the most promising technology developments of the coming years. Big companies like IBM (IBM, 2019), Google (Google AI, 2019), Intel (Intel, 2019), Microsoft (Microsoft, 2019), and countries like the USA and China are investing huge amounts of money into the development and building of meaningful working quantum computers (Raymer and Monroes, 2019; Kania and Costello, 2018). The development of practical quantum computers that can be used to solve real-world problems is driven by the expectation that for certain tasks, quantum computers can outperform classical computers (Preskill, 2012).

Already last year, SURFsara started a number of activities and collaborations in the field of quantum computing. The overall objective of SURFsara is to support Dutch researchers in taking an early and competitive advantage in quantum computing technologies and facilities while these become available. Like with any emerging compute technology, it needs early adopters in the scientific computing community to identify problems of practical interest that are suitable as proof-of-concept applications. In the context of the SURF Open Innovation Lab, SURFsara seeks to stimulate and support these advances in scientific research in close collaboration with research groups. Within this context SURFsara is interested in testing, benchmarking and creating good examples of quantum computing applications that can be used by the scientific community.

SURFsara HPC center supports various research institutes and universities of the Netherlands. The chemistry community is currently one of the largest; the machine learning community is probably the fastest growing one. Both of these fields are large areas of research within the quantum computing field, expecting large improvements to be gained from them. As the main interest of SURFsara is to support the potential main use cases of quantum computers in the future, the tasks of this internship will be focused on quantum machine learning (QML) and quantum chemistry (QC) algorithms. This internship aims to research state-of-the-art QML and QC algorithms, run simulations of them and benchmark them. The final goal is to provide a platform for end users to experiment with QML and QC algorithms.

This report will try to give an answer to the main question “*How can quantum algorithms be implemented using simulated quantum circuits to solve machine learning and chemistry problems?*” This is further expanded into the following sub questions:

1. What are current promising QML and QC algorithms?
2. What simulators are best suited for simulating QML and QC quantum circuits?
3. How can these quantum algorithms be integrated in current classical workflow of chemistry and machine learning applications?
4. How do these quantum algorithms perform (in regard to classical algorithms)?

This report is structured as follows. First, in section 2, I describe how the research was conducted. Second, in section 3 and 4, research towards quantum algorithms and simulators is described. Finally, in section 5, quantum algorithms are implemented and the results are discussed. The conclusion of the research is described in section 6.

2 Methods

3 Quantum Algorithms

4 Quantum Simulators

5 Implementation and Results

6 Conclusion

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